

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2438  
USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS TEHRAN 4003

DEPT. PLEASE PASS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, TECH, TGEN, BTIO, BEXP, USIRJC

SUBJ: EARLY WARNING: POSSIBLE TRADE OPPORTUNITIES

IN THE FIELD OF POLLUTION MONITORING AND POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT.

1. THE IRANIAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION HAS PROMULGATED NEW ANTI POLLUTION REGULATIONS AS THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT IS EVIDENTLY BECOMING MORE CONCERNED BY THE HIGH LEVEL OF POLLUTION IN THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY IN TEHRAN. THE POLLUTION LEVEL IN TEHRAN, ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE IN THE KAYHAN (ENGLISH LANGUAGE) NEWS-PAPER ON APRIL 4, 1977, IS NOW FIVE TIMES THE LEVEL CONSIDERED HAZARDOUS BY AMERICAN SCIENTISTS AND INCREASES BY TEN TO TWENTY PER CENT ANNUALLY. THE LEVEL OF CARBON MONOXIDE IN TEHRAN IS NOW TEN TIMES THE INTERNATIONALLY LABELLED DANGER LEVEL.

2. NEW ANTI-POLLUTION REGULATIONS WILL BE ENFORCED FOR HEATERS AND BOILERS, BOTH RESIDENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL UNITS. HOME OWNERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO HAVE SMOKE-PRODUCING HEATERS AND BOILERS REPAIRED BEFORE NEXT WINTER, ACCORDING TO THE NEWS ARTICLE.

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3. THE MAIN SOURCES OF INDUSTRIAL AIR POLLUTION ARE CONSIDERED TO BE CEMENT PLANTS, REFINERIES, ASPHALT PLANTS AND ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS. PLANTS IN THESE CATEGORIES HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INSTALL EQUIPMENT (SUCH AS FILTERS AND ELECTROSTATIC PRECIPITATORS) TO PURIFY THEIR DISCHARGES INTO THE ATMOSPHERE. IT IS UNDERSTOOD FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT THAT SOME

EUROPEAN FIRMS HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MARKETING SUCH DEVICES.

4. THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT IS ALSO EXPANDING ITS NETWORK OF MEASURING/MONITORING STATIONS TO CITIES OUTSIDE TEHRAN. ORDERS ARE BEING PLACED FOR INSTRUMENTS INCLUDING MOBILE UNITS TO MONITOR DUST, SULFUR, AND FUMES IN THE AIR, MEASURING THEIR CONCENTRATION AND DISTRIBUTION.

5. WITHIN THE NEXT THREE TO FOUR MONTHS, THE GOVERNMENT IS EXPECTED TO INTRODUCE A STRIGENT SET OF RULES DESIGNED TO CONTROL POLLUTION EMANATING FROM CARS AND TRUCKS, MOTOR VEHICLES ARE CONSIDERED TO BE THE PRIME SOURCE OF AIR POLLUTION IN TEHRAN, AND ALL TYPES OF MOTOR VEHICLES WILL BE COVERED BY THE NEW REGULATIONS.

6. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE NEW EMPHASIS IN ANTI-POLLUTION MEASURES WILL CREATE A MARKET FOR AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY AND PRODUCTS IN THIS FIELD.

7. FYI: PLEASE NOTE THAT ESTIMATES GIVEN BY GOI OFFICIALS OF AMOUNT OF TIME REQUIRED TO PASS NEW LEGISLATION IS USUALLY VERY OPTIMISTIC. WE THEREFORE WOULD EXPECT ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS TO TAKE LONGER THAN THE 3-4 MONTH PERIOD AND THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO ENFORCE SUCH REGULATIONS CONSIDERABLY LONGER.

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